

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-06 CU-02 SAM-01 OMB-01

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R 241356Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7665

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4763

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AORG, IS, UNESCO, UN

SUBJECT:ISRAEL AND UNESCO

WE SAW MORDECHAI KIDRON (MFA ASST. DIRGEN, UN AFFIARS), JULY 22.

HE GAVE US BRIEF RUN DOWN ON STATUS OF UNESCO SITUATION,

CALLING ATTENTION TO THE PAUL HOFFMAN STORY IN

NEW YORK TIMES(JULY 21) WHICH HE THOUGHT WAS REASONABLY

ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF THE WAY THINGS STOOD. IN ESSENCE,

UNESCO HAS BEEN MAKING SOME MOVES TO TRY TO REMOVE

POINTS OF FRICTION WITH ISRAEL. THIS HAD BEEN MODER-

ATELY HELPFUL AND COULD EVEN HAVE A POSITIVE OUTCOME,

ALTHOUGH GOI REMAINS PESSIMISTIC THAT CONTROVERSY WITH

UNESCO CAN BE RESOLVED IN LIGHT OF THE POLITICAL

REALITIES. NEVERTHESSLSS IT DOES NOTDOUBT UNESCO SG

M'BOW GOOD INTENTSION IN HIS EFFORTS TO RY TO

SURMOUNT DIFFICULTIES RESULTING FROM LAST YEAR'S

SANCTIONS VOTES. KIDRON SAID THAT, IN ISRAELI VIEW,

MODERATION OF THE DISPUTE IS OF GREATER INTEREST

TO UNESCOTHAN TO ISRAEL. UNESCO IS HURTING

FINANCIALLY, ITS REPUTATION IS SULLIED AND ITS

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FUTURE IS IN DOUBT. FOR ITS PART, ISREL IS INTERESTED

IN AN IMPROVED SITUATION AND IN HAVING THE WAY
SMOOTHER TO JOINING THE EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP.
HOWEVER, IT WILL NOT COMPROMISE ITS POSITION ON THE
SUBJECT OF JERUSALEM EXCAVATIONS WHICH(ADDRESSEES
ARE AWARE) IT FIRMLY BELIEVES HS BEEN DELIBERATELY
USED TO PURSUE POLITICAL OBJECTIVES BEYOND UNESCO'S
COMPETENECE. IF UNESCO INSISTS ON PURSUING QUESTON
OF EXCAVATIONS THINGS WILL BE BACK TO SQUAR ONE.

2. IN A MORE GENERAL VEIN, KIDRON SPECULATED THAT THE
WAY VOTES NOW APPEAR TO BE LINED UP, HE THOUGHT
THERE WAS GOOD CHANCE THAT MOVE TO SUSPEND ISRAEL
AT NEXT UNGA WOULD CARRY AT KAMPALA OAU MEETING AND
PROBABLY AT LIMA MEETING OF "77". IF SO THE PROGNOSIS
OFR THE UNGA COULD NOT BE VERY GOOD. AS A CONSEQUENCE,
FONMIN WAS MAKING A POLICY STATEMENT(TEL AVIV4736)
OUTLINGIN GOI POISITON RE UN SO THAT ALL STATES
CONCERNED COULD THINK ABOUT IMPLICATIONS OF
EFFORT TO OUST ISRAEL WELL BEFORE CURRENT SERIES OF
MEETINGS WHERE ISRAEL'S UN PARTICIPATION WOULD BE
CALLED INTO QUESTION.(IN THIS LATTER CONNECTION,
NEW ISRAELI AMBASSADOR TO UN HAIM HERZOG IN ROUND OF
CALLS AND MEETINGS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE FOR
NEW YORK NEXT WEEK, HAS BEEN SAYING THAT, IF ISRAEL
IS SUSPENDED FROM UNGA, HER EXISTING RELATIONSHIP IN THE
UN SYSTEM WOULD BE " MEANINGLESS" AND THIS SPECIFICALLY
INVOLVED UNTSO, UNDOF, AND UNEF.
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